(c) if adequate number of dealership have not been awarded to the persons belonging to the SCs/STs, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have issued instructions in September, 1978 to fertilizer manufacturing Public Sector Undertakings to reserve 25% of all future appointments of dealers for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

(b) Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC), a Public Sector Enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of Coal, is an integrated complex consisting of lignite mines, pit-head thermal power stations, a briquetting and carbonisation plant and a fertilizer plant. Presently, there are 124 stockists-cum-dealers marketing urea produced from the plant out of which only one stockist-cum-dealer (0.8%) belongs to SCST category.

(c) The instructions of 1978 issued by the Department of Chemicals and Fertilizers were not addressed to NLC or the Ministry of Coal and hence the NLC has been following its own methodology in appointment of stockists-cum-dealers.

Providing safety to miners

3482. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the lives lost in recent Dhanbad tragedy are on account of inadequate safety measures in collieries;

(b) if so, the reasons why the measures recommended after Chasnala tragedy are not yet implemented in Bagdighi Coal Mine; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to provide safety to Miners in all the Coal fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) An accident took place in Bagdighi coal mine of BCCL on 2.2.2001. The Ministry of Labour has constituted a Court of Inquiry by Justice Gurusharan Sharma of

the High Court of Jharkhand to hold a formal inquiry into the causes and circumstances attending the accident. Work of the Court of Inquiry is in progress. The causes and circumstances of the accident will be known only when the report of Court of Inquiry is received.

(b) Chasnala Court of Inquiry recommended amendments to regulation 127. of Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 which have been done. Whether the provisions of CMR 127 as amended were complied with or not at Bagdighi colliery will only be known after reports of Bagdighi Court of Inquiry is made available.

(c) In addition to compliance with requirement of mining safety laws, Coal India Ltd., and its subsidiaries are taking the following measures to check accidents in its coal mines and make mining work more safe.

1. Regular periodic safety audits of mines by experienced safety laws, and electrical/mechanical engineers and implementation of the recommendations of the same.

2. Before every monsoon the danger of inundation from both surface and underground sources of water are examined in every mine and action plan for preventive measures against the same is prepared and implemented.

3. CIL has established a structured multi-disciplinary Internal Safety Organisation (ISO) for monitoring safety status of mines, both at subsidiary level and CIL Headquarter level. Intensive and quality inspections by ISO are being done.

4. Committee consisting of senior officers constituted in each area to inspect mines of other areas to ascertain dangers due to inundation from surface as well as from underground waters and also to ascertain dangers of noxious/toxic gases, fire damp into working districts or other workings from sealed off areas.

5. Check survey of all underground mines which are prone to water danger.

6. Design of system of support of roof in the development workings in underground mines by scientific support systems based on Rock-Mass-Rating studies.

7. Greater use of quick setting cement capsule grouted roof bolts for support in development workings in underground mines.

8. Reduced exposure of workers to mining hazards by mechanisation of loading operations by increasing use of SDLs and LHDs in below ground mines.

9. Thrust on training and retraining or workmen, Supervisors to increase safety awareness of the workmen.

10. A comprehensive action plan has been framed to reduce accidents in opencast mines and at surface of mines.

11. Formulation of emergency plan with mock rehearsals of the same.

12. Maintaining properly equipped and trained rescue services.

13. Regular monitoring of mine environment by hand held gas detectors and flame safety lamps for detecting inflammable and noxious gas. Besides, seven computerised continuous mine environmental tele-monitoring system are in operation in seven mines and six numbers of such systems are in pipeline.

14. Promoting workers participation in safety management through various bodies at the mine level, area level, subsidiary company level at CIL level, who regularly take stock of the safety status of mines and make recommendations, which are being implemented.

Safeguarding workers' lives in coal mines

3483. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news article which was published in the Navbharat Times dated the 5th February 2001, under the heading "Khaan main durghatana";

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and